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A LETTER FROM MRS. S. A. COBB (maiden name, Ellen Vore) of Vinita, Oklahoma to Mattie Dodson, Muskogee, Oklahoma.

Vinita, Okla.
Feb. 12, 1937

My dear Mattie:

Did not send the papers yesterday it was so cold & I not feeling very well. I am sending them this morning. I hope you will find something that will help you out. Mattie, I never could write any thing, so you will rewrite it in your own words. You may find much to leave out. However, the four men that come out here were anxious to make money - (Mr. Cobb, J. Cobb, T. S. Sutton & Mr. all Cleveland. They were not here long before Mr. Cleveland (I think it was before they went into business) took the cholera & died & they sent him back to town, to bury. Mr. Cobb, John & Tom Sutton were boys raised together & they loved each other like brothers. They started to Virginia & met Col. Last ad who advised them to come out here & look around. Col. Last ad prior to their coming had made trips out here & had bought a negro boy from my father & took him back to Va. The negro ran away & come back home so my father bought him back. He bought the negro before peace was made.

I was too young to take cognizance but I think they first stopped at Ft. Gibson. Col. Murphy liked the place & advised them to stay. He told them if they went to Va. they might regret it. He said, "To me you will let slip one of the greatest opportunities in life to make money." "You will make your "Jack" in this new country." You know each one of them had one hundred dollars apiece. So they had to be very conservative.

I think I was about ten years old when they come to Webbers Falls. That would make it about 1866 or 1867. They put up a log hut. One big room with a "loft." This loft was their store room, & as they sold out they would bring things down. They brought their groceries from Alaire Gro. Co. in St Louis, Chicago, St. Smith & other places. When any one wanted something a little extra they would take their order & when they went to St. Louis would get it or send to Chicago. I do not know how long they remained in their log house. They paid strictly to business & finally

built a large frame building & went at it right. They killed a hundred head of hogs & Mr. Mutton tried to economize & do most of work with aid of several negroes. He rendered lard & got Kansas salt & lost every joint of meat they had with the exception of the lard & sides. They throw hams & shoulders in Arkansas river, they blamed the Kansas salt - it had too much alum in it. Ever after that he always use Michigan or Lake salt. John was Postmaster - the P.O. was right in the store. They rented a hundred acres of land & hired negroes & made a good crop every year. They sold every thing & bought every thing that was brought in or they would exchange for groceries. (One day an old lady brought in a gallon bucket of krait & Mr. Cobb did not say whether they would buy it or not, but kept eating it. The woman was afraid he would eat it up, so she stooped back and said, "You like it, don't you some." He bought it. There was all kinds of wild fruit & they bought blackberries at five cents a gallon. They also bought hides & furs for Joseph Bonzheimer. He at that time lived in St. Louis & made trips out in this part of country. They had crib after crib of corn. The cribs would be long open pens built high with space between the planks.

Now you know they had to have permits to buy & trade with the Indians & to hire any person not an Indian. The children have some permits & papers, they would not take any thing for them, will send them for you to look them over. Now you will be glad to see them.

One time an old lady brought an old bay horse up to the store for a debt she owed them & to get some other groceries. She cried so, I think she made Mr. Cobb pity her, so he made her take her old horse home & she got her groceries too.

As near as I can figure things out the three were partners up to 1871. They were known as Cobb & Co. Then it was Cobb & Mutton. John then went to St. Gibson Station & you know all that. Cobb & Mutton stayed on at Webbers Mills until about 1881. - Then in 1881, some time, they must have gone to the Strip. As you will see by a letter Mr. Mutton wrote to Mr. Cobb from Caldwell, Kans. You know Cobb & Mutton were with the syndicate that leased the strip from the Gov. They stayed out there about six years or until their lease ran out. You know they had to pay tax or revenue on all their cattle.

It was just such a winter as we had this year, that Cobb & Mutton lost 1500 head of cattle on strip - They drifted & froze to death. I saw where they had died & it was just one big, big heap of bones.

I do not know where Dr. Payne's farm was. I did not know them until after John was married.

They were from Blount Co. Tenn. Old Tyson lived on one side of river & Cobbs on the other. When we were down to Morgans Run, Mr. Tyson showed us a picture of the river & told us what good friends the families were. If you write him he may tell you something. I think he said one of Mr. Cobbs' brother served in Army with some of his people.

You ask why Mr. Cobb came here. His relatives at Wagoner wanted him to settle there he did not think there was enough out lot for his cattle & when he came here, J. C. Hall & his brother Sam Hall - William Little & W. C. Patton persuaded him that was the place. So he brought a thousand or more head of cattle here from the Strip. Mr. Patton going to E. U. as stock commission man and remained until his death, which was caused from heart trouble. Mr. Cobb came to visit in 1890.

I believe we have found their first year it issued in 1897 with J. C. Cobb, J. C. Cobb & all Cleveland, so you see Cleveland died soon after but do not know just how soon. The permit in 1893 does not contain his name. Mr. Cobb was discharged from Army June 20 1865 at Nashville, Tenn. He was 35 years old.

Mr. Patton was first associated with Cyrus Patton & Hunter - then Abraham Patton & Cyrus, Commodore Co.

Sorry I did not get to see all the family I know if we could see you could tell you other little things that come up - next time I will try to see you. I never got to see Morris Jackson & Chester.

All good love

Aunt Alice.

Very truly would like to see all that you have.

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It is known, that Israel Cobb,
John Cobb and Joseph Hutton of Montgomery Tennessee,
 partners trading under the name and firm of Cobb and Hutton having
 filed their application before me for a license to trade with
 the Cherokee Tribe of Indians at the following place, to wit: in
 the backwoods of the country occupied by the said tribe of
Indians in the territory of the State of Tennessee in the
County of Sevier, Tennessee, and Sevier County and filed
 with me a bond in the sum of five thousand dollars, to be
 paid to me in the sum of five thousand dollars, to be
 paid to me in the sum of five thousand dollars in the
County of Sevier, Tennessee, conditioned as required by law for the faithful
 observance of all the laws and regulations provided for the govern-
 ment of trade and intercourse with the Indian Tribes, and reposit
 special trust and confidence in the loyalty, integrity, and
good business habits of the said parties, and being satisfied
 that they are citizens of the United States as required by law,
 I do hereby authorized to carry on the business of trading with
 the Cherokee Tribe of Indians at the above named place for the
 term of one year from this date hereof.

Witness my hand and seal
 this 7th day of September A.D. 1839 and 18th day of the month of
 September 1839.

John L. Craig
 Major U.S. Army
 Agent for Cherokees

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100-100

100-100

Mr. Samuel S. Cobb, John O. Cobb and Thomas S. Hutton
of ^{COUNTY} Blint County Tennessee and Calvin J. Hanks and J. L.
McCorkle of the Cherokee nation are jointly and severally
held and firmly bound unto the United States in the penal
sum of five thousand dollars good and lawful money of the
United States for the payment of which we bind ourselves
and each of us our heirs executors or administrators
jointly and severally firmly by these presents signed with
our names and sealed with our seals and dated this 28th
day of June 1863.

The condition of the above obligation is such that
whereas the above bound Samuel S. Cobb, John O. Cobb and
Thomas S. Hutton has obtained from the United States Agent
for the Indians of the Cherokee agency permission to trade
in goods, wares, merchandise & etc at Webbers Falls Canad-
ian district in the Cherokee nation and with said tribe,
now if the above bound Samuel S. Cobb, John O. Cobb and
Thomas S. Hutton shall in all things comply with the laws
and regulations of the United States in relation to inter-
course, and trade with said tribe and shall conduct them-
selves as peaceable citizens of the Cherokee nation during
the period for which said permission is granted them. This
obligation to be void; otherwise to remain in full force
and effect, given under our hands and seals the day and year

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Be it known that Samuel C. Cobb, John C. Cobb, and
 Messrs. Hutton of Blount County Tennessee, partners
 trading under the name and firm of Cobb & Co have filed
 their application before me for a license to trade with
 the Cherokee tribe of Indians at the following named place
 within the boundaries of the county of Blount the said
 place. To-wit: Robbins Falls, situated on the west bank
 of the Tennessee river between the points Cherokee Station,
 and having executed and filed with me a bond in the penal
 sum of Five Thousand dollars, with ~~James~~ J. H. Hoke, J. I.
 L. Clarke and Johnson Brown, of the Cherokee nation as
 sureties. Conditional as required by law for the faith-
 ful observance of all the laws and regulations provided
 for the Government of trade and intercourse with the Indian
 Tribe and respecting sacred trust and good faith in the patriot-
 ic humanity and secret business of the said applica-
 nts and being satisfied that they are citizens of the
 United States as required by law, they are hereby authorized
 to carry on the business of trading with the Cherokee tribe
 of Indians at the above named place for the term of one year
 from the date hereof.

Given under my hand and seal, this day of _____ one
 Thousand Eight hundred and Seventy.

It is known that Samuel Cobb and John G. Wolf of
 that county, on the 21st day of October, 1867, Tennessee,
 having filed their application for a
 license to trade with the Cherokee Indians in that county the
 following named articles to wit: The quantity of articles
 specified by the said application is as follows: One hundred
 and ten dollars having deposited one hundred dollars
 with the agent of the said Cherokee Indians, with
 the said conditions and terms, the said conditions
 as respects the license for the said trade of all the
 laws, regulations, provided by the Government of the
 said Cherokee Indians, the said conditions and terms
 being and considered in a patriotic, humane and correct
 degree, in the said articles, and being satisfied
 that the said license of the said trade, as required by
 law, that the said license is authorized to carry on the business of
 trading with the said Cherokee Indians in that county, in
 place of the term of one year from the 1st day of June, 1867,
 under my hand and seal. This the 24th day of June 1867.

John J. Humphreys

U. S. Agent for Cherokees.

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on the west bank of Arkansas river, Canadian district,
Sherokee Nation.

Now if the said Samuel A. Cobb John A. Cobb,
and Thomas A. Sutton so licensed shall faithfully conform to
and observe all the laws and regulations made or which shall
be made for the government of trade and intercourse with the
Indians tribes and in no respect violate the same, and shall
trade at the aforesaid place and no other and shall in all
respects act conformably with the license granted to them. Then
this obligation to be void, else to remain in full force and
virtue.

signed and sealed in presence
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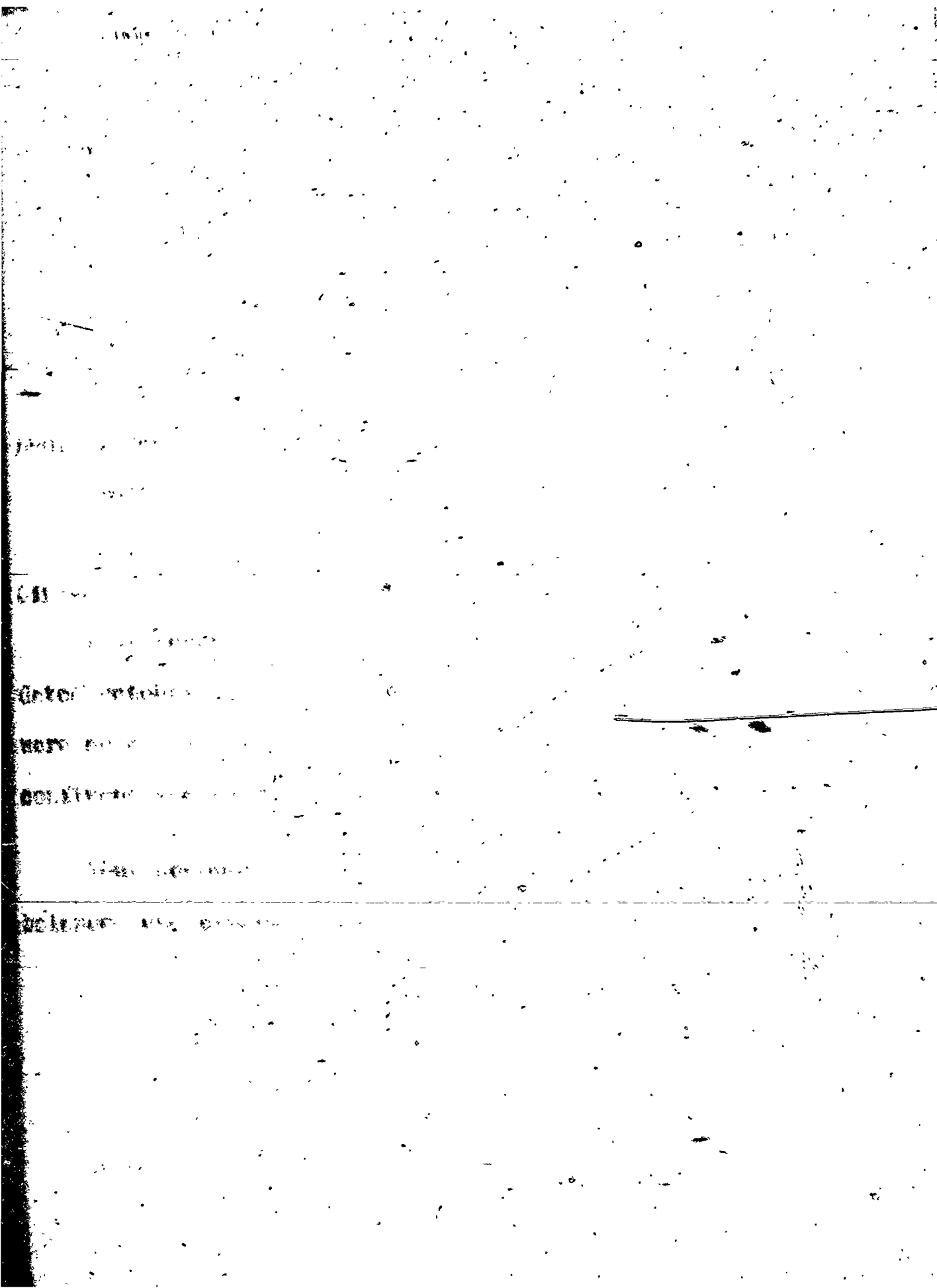
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LANDS

uskogee, Ind. Ter., June 9th, 1892.

Dear Sir:--

You were kind enough to evidence your confidence in my integrity and ability to properly and faithfully discharge to the United States the sum of nearly \$1000.00, and you became one of my bondsmen under the date of the 1st of June, 1892.

We have discharged the debt the amount of your bond is shown by Treasury Department letter dated June 1, 1892, and a which I am pleased to enclose a copy.

Please accept my sincerest gratitude for your favor in this matter and permit me to assure you that I will gladly render you any service within my power should the occasion require.

Very sincerely,
Wm. H. Bennett

Wm. H. Bennett

To
...

Given under my hand and Seal this First day of September
Eighteen hundred and Seventy

John N. Craig

Bt Major U. S. Army

Agent for Cherokees

I, John N. Craig, Bt Major U. S. Army, Indian Agent for the
Cherokee Tribe of Indians do certify on honor that the License
hereto annexed and granted by me has been granted without
any agreement or understanding with the party so Licensed or
any other person or persons on behalf of the party so licensed
for any benefit or advantage to myself, directly or indirectly
present or future or to any person or persons on my behalf in any
manner whatever and that no arrangements for such benefit to myself
or other persons on my behalf is in contemplation in case said
license shall be approved..

John N. Craig

Bt Major U. S. Army

Agent for Cherokees

Approved

Wm F. Cody
Acting Commissi

Office of Indian
Affairs
Washington D C
August 10, 1870